

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for keeping a person warm, comprising:

a generally tubular length of material having an open end, a closed end, an inner surface, and an outer surface;

an elastic band encircling said open end;

a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the closed end of the apparatus; ~~and~~

a fastener attached to the outside of the protective mat ~~for securing the closed end of the apparatus to an external surface. ; and~~

a complementary fastener attached to a tree stand base.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a pocket in said tubular length of material at or near said open end.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said material is a weatherproof material.

20. (currently amended) A method of keeping a person warm while in a tree stand, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a generally tubular length of material comprising:

an open end, a closed end, an inner surface, and an outer surface;

an elastic band encircling said open end;

a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the closed end of the apparatus; ~~and~~

a fastener attached to the outside of the protective mat ~~for securing the closed end of the apparatus to an external surface; and~~

a complementary fastener attached to a tree stand base;

- (b) inserting one or both feet and legs into the generally tubular length of material; and
- (c) pulling the open end of the length of material up to a desired height.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the weatherproof material is chosen from nylon, polar fleece, and parachute silk.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the inner surface is polar fleece and the outer surface is either parachute silk or nylon.